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FEDERAL INDICTMENTS RETURNED AGAINST MEMBERS OF MAJOR DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION IN SHREVEPORT

Indictments a result of Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF) investigation

Shreveport, Louisiana . . . United States Attorney Donald W. Washington announced today that 20 individuals have been charged with drug conspiracy and distribution charges stemming from an investigation by federal, state and local law enforcement agencies into a major drug trafficking and distribution conspiracy operating in the Lakeside area of Shreveport. These indictments are a result of an investigation conducted by the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force (OCDETF). The OCDETF operation is known as "Operation King Ron." This investigation is ongoing.

OCDETF is the nation's primary tool for disrupting and dismantling major drug trafficking organizations. OCDETF leaders develop national and regional level drug trafficking targets, and coordinate the necessary law enforcement entities and resources to disrupt or dismantle the targeted criminal organization and seize their assets.

Seven separate indictments were returned by the federal grand jury on June 28, 2006 charging 16 individuals with conspiracy to possess and distribute cocaine and crack cocaine; possession with

intent to distribute cocaine; and criminal forfeiture. Two additional indictments were returned in January and May of this year charging three individuals with conspiracy to distribute cocaine and crack cocaine; and distribution of cocaine. One additional defendant was charged in a bill of information with one count of possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine.

“Operation King Ron” was conducted by OCDETF and the FBI’s Northwest Louisiana Violent Crimes Task Force which includes the Federal Bureau of Investigation in Shreveport, Drug Enforcement Administration, U.S. Marshal’s Service, Shreveport Police Department, Caddo Parish Sheriff’s Office, Bossier City Police Department and the Louisiana National Guard Counter-Drug Task Force. Assistant United States Attorney Alexander C. Van Hook is the lead prosecutor for these cases. The Caddo Parish District Attorney’s Office will be working together with the U.S. Attorney’s Office in prosecuting additional defendants who may be charged in connection with this ongoing investigation.

A list of the current defendants and their charges is attached hereto.

An indictment is merely an accusation and a defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Defendants are entitled to a presumption of innocence under the law, and the government has the burden of proving every element of the charges beyond a reasonable doubt.

Drug trafficking in an amount greater than 5 kilos of powder cocaine or 50 grams of crack cocaine carries a minimum mandatory sentence of 10 years to life in federal prison, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

Sentencing in federal court is determined by the discretion of federal judges and the governing statute. United States Sentencing Guidelines established by the United States Congress and the United States Sentencing Commission are only used as guidelines by the judge in determining the appropriate sentence. Parole has been abolished in the federal system.

LIST OF DEFENDANTS

NAME	AGE AND HOMETOWN	CHARGE	STATUS OF DEFENDANT
Ronald King	Age 38 Dallas, TX	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine; criminal forfeiture	In custody
Darius Johnson a/k/a "Grover"	Age 28 Garland, TX	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine	In custody
Shelby King	Age 29 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine	Fugitive
Kenyoun Gilyard a/k/a "Pop"	Age 26 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine; conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute powder cocaine; possession with intent to distribute powder cocaine; possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine	In custody
Lamale R. Gilyard	Age 27 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine; conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute powder cocaine; possession with intent to distribute powder cocaine; possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine	In custody
Isaac Caldwell	Age 31 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute powder cocaine	In custody
Ravion Shelley	Age 28 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine; conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute powder cocaine; possession with intent to distribute powder cocaine; possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine	In custody
Demetrick Smith a/k/a "Meechie Ray"	Age 30 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine; possession with intent to distribute powder cocaine; possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine	In custody
Jermelra Freeman a/k/a "Boo"	Age 29 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine; possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine	Fugitive

Levon Howard a/k/a “Bug”	Age 24 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine; possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine	In custody
Michael Sims a/k/a “Big Mike”	Age 31 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute crack cocaine; possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine	In custody
Tiffany McCain	Age 24 Shreveport, LA	Making false declarations before a court	Released on bond
Jerome Maxie	Age 30 Shreveport, LA	Possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine	Released on bond
Antwuan Wilson	Age 29 Shreveport, LA	Possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine	Fugitive
Cedric Henderson, Jr.	Age 28 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine	In custody
Antonio Ware	Age 28 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine; possession with intent to distribute cocaine	In custody
Cortez Maxie	Age 29 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute cocaine; possession with intent to distribute cocaine	Fugitive
Kevin Lee Johnson	Age 25 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine; distribution of crack cocaine	In custody
Clinton Kinsey	Age 26 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine; distribution of crack cocaine	In custody
Timothy Flakes	Age 28 Shreveport, LA	Conspiracy to distribute crack cocaine; possession with intent to distribute of crack cocaine	In custody

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